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ABSTRACT

On June 28, 1914, while visiting Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire, was assassinated. The Austrian government blamed Serbia for harboring terrorists and sent the Serbian government an ultimatum with which that country found it impossible to comply. This set in motion a series of alliances. During the month of July, European diplomats debated whether to engage in a war to obtain certain long-sought goals and to justify a huge military buildup. By the end of July all of Europe was poised on the edge of war. In this lesson plan, students, acting as diplomats for the countries involved in the origins of World War I, read and respond to a telegram of July 30, 1914, from Belgium urging the interested countries to avoid war. Students are provided with background information, detailed instructions, online resources, and reflection questions. The teacher's notes describe the unit's purpose, explain the unit's correlation to history/social science and language arts standards, and suggest day-by-day teaching strategies. (BT)

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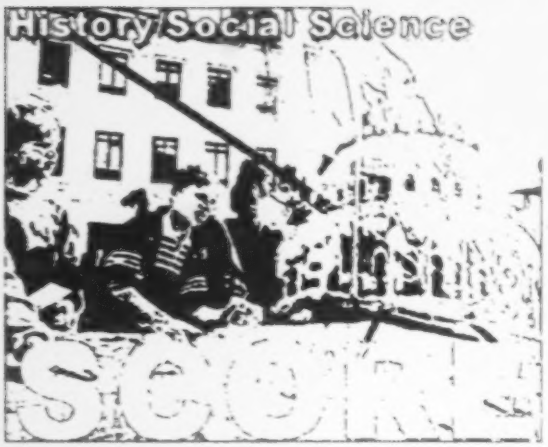

Schools of California Online Resources for Education (SCORE): Connecting California's Classrooms to the World

The July Crisis: Can you stop the Great War?

10th Grade Lesson by Madeline Antilla

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The July Crisis: Can you stop the Great War?

"The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." Sir Edward Grey

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated while visiting Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Black Hand society. The Austrian government blamed Serbia for harboring terrorists and sent the Serbian government an ultimatum with which that country found it impossible to comply. This set into a motion series of alliances. During the month July, European diplomats debated whether to engage in a war to obtain certain long sought goals, colonies, and justify a huge military buildup. By the end of July all of Europe was poised on the edge of war.

TELEGRAM

RECEIVED: 30 JULY, 1914

THE NATIONS OF EUROPE ARE ON THE VERGE OF WAR WHICH WILL INVOLVE US ALL STOP THIS WAR CAN BE PREVENTED STOP WE URGE ALL DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND THE PEACE CONFERENCE CONVENING IN BRUSSELS STOP

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR YOUR DELEGATION TO MEET IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 31, 1914 STOP IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THIS CONFERENCE, IT IS IMPERITIVE THAT YOU PREPARE THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION FOR THE OTHER DELEGATES STOP

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY INCLUDING A MAP, BRIEF HISTORY, AND ALLIANCES STOP

2. LONG TERM REASONS EXPLAINING WHY YOU MAY FEEL FORCED INTO WAR STOP

3. RECENT OR SHORT TERM EVENTS IN THE PAST MONTH THAT YOU FEEL ARE FORCING YOUR COUNTRY INTO WAR STOP

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO OUTLINE YOUR PEACE PROPOSAL WHICH YOU WILL AUGMENT AFTER THE OTHER DELEGATIONS MAKE THEIR PRESENTATIONS STOP

MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
KINGDOM OF BELGUIM

Task

The date is July 30, 1914 and the situation is critical when you receive the bove telegram. You are a diplomat for one of the countries involved in the origins of World War I. Austria-Hungary has already declared war on Serbia after receiving reassurance from Germany of full support. Because of the alliance system, this war is not destined to remain a small, regional flare up. Russia and Germany are about to declare war because the Russian army has been mobilized at the German border. Germany has plans to attack France through neutral Belgium, and Great Britain has sworn to protect Belgium's neutrality. Belgium is trying to make one last effort to bring the interested countries together to avoid war.

The Process

Step1: Your team is a diplomatic advisory group representing one of the following:

Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, and Ottoman Empire. Each country's team of diplomats will meet in neutral Belgium on July 31,1914. In order to prepare for the peace conference, you and your team must research and make an oral presentation with visuals on the following topics as stated in the telegram:

- Background about your country including: a brief history, geographic location, alliances, and leaders
- Long term reasons explaining why your country is willing to risk going to war (events more than a year ago)
- Short term reasons explaining why your country is willing to risk going to war (events within the last year)

All students should take notes on these three topics: background, long term reasons, and short term reasons in their journals.

Step 2: After your group has made a presentation representing your country's point of view on these topics and studied the information given by the other countries, you will prepare and present a proposal to prevent the war. Take into account all that you have learned from the presentations of other countries, and try to formulate an agreement that will prevent the war by presenting a valid compromise. This proposal should obtain for your country what it really wants and make some concessions to other countries

Step 3: After your country has presented its peace proposal, the class will divide up into 4 groups with at least one representative from each country in each group. In these new peace negotiation groups, start by voting on the proposals from each country. Because some countries are more powerful than others, some countries will receive more votes: Germany (3), Great Britain (3), France (2), Russia (2), Serbia (1), Ottoman Empire (1), Austro-Hungarian Empire (2), Italy (1) . Any country may abstain from voting. Modify the proposal with the most votes until you reach a consensus. If you do not reach a consensus in 45 minutes, you will write out a declaration of war stating the reasons why you are going to war.

Resources

Read the information that your textbook gives about the beginning of World War I. You should also read the following background information first:

Assassination in Sarajevo (http://www.worldwar1.com/tlsara.htm)

1879-1914: The Deadly Alliances (http://www.worldwar1.com/tlalli.htm)

The July Crisis (http://www.worldwar1.com/tlplot.htm)

Germany

Look for the answers to these questions:

- Who are your allies?
- Why does Germany support the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
- What are Germany's colonial interests?
- What are Germany's military interests, and how is Germany building up its military?
- Why is Germany an economic rival of Great Britain?
- How does Germany's competition to build up its navy put them into an arms race with
- Great Britain?
- What is the ìBlank Checkî that Germany gives the Austro-Hungarian Empire?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-Germany

(http://www.worldwar1.com/atger.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

20 Kaiser Wilhelm II and German Interests in China

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/china.html)

May, 1882 - The Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripally.html)

The Daily Telegraph Affair 28 October, 1908

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/dailytel.html)

8-12 February,1912The Haldane Mission

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/haldane.html)

5 December, 1912 Expanded Version of the Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripall2.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

6 July, 1914-The 'Blank Check'

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/blankche.html)

1914 The German White Book

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/germbook.html)

June-July, 1914 German Dispatches and the Kaiser's Notes

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/wilnotes.html)

Autograph Letter of Franz Joseph to the Kaiser, Vienna, 2 July, 1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/frzwilly.html)

29 July-1 August, 1914 The "Willy-Nicky" Telegrams in the original English

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/willynilly.html)

July, 1914 Prince Lichownowsky's Reply to Sir Edward Grey

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/lichno.html)

Kaiser Wilhelm II's Account of Events, July, 1914. From his Memoirs

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/kwiijuly.html)

France

- **Look for the answers to these questions:**
- Who are your allies?
- What area did France have to give to Germany after the Franco-Prussian War?
- How does France plan to defend itself against Germany?
- What problem does France have with Germany in Morocco, a colony of France?
- How did France win Russia over as an ally from Germany?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-France

(http://www.worldwar1.com/atfra.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi - The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

18 August, 1892 The Franco-Russian Alliance Military Convention

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/franruss.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

Great Britain

- **Look for the answers to these questions:**
- Who are Britain's allies?
- How does Germany's increase in battleships (Dreadnoughts) affect Britain?
- How does the industrial rivalry affect Britain's relationship with Germany?
- What treaty does Britain have to protect Belgium's neutrality?
- What imperial rivalries does Britain have with Germany in Africa?

- What are Britain's interests in the Middle East, and how does this conflict with the Ottoman Empire?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-Great Britain

(http://www.worldwar1.com/atcng.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

8-12 February, 1912 - The Haldane Mission

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/haldane.html)

28 October, 1908 - The Daily Telegraph Affair

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/dailytel.html)

British Imperial Connexions to the Arab Nationalist Movement, Lord Kitchener and the

Arab National Movement, 1912-1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/arabctuk.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

31 July, 1914 Sir Edward Grey's Indecisiveness

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/greyegal.html)

July, 1914 Prince Lichownowsky's Reply to Sir Edward Grey

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/lichno.html)

Russia

Look for the answers to these questions:

- Who are Russia's allies?
- Why is access to the Dardanelles from the Black Sea important to Russia?
- Why is Russia allied with Serbia?
- How did Germany lose Russia as an ally and how does this affect the German war plans?
- Why is it necessary for Russia to mobilize its army so much in advance and how does Germany react?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-Russia

(http://www.worldwar1.com/atrus.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

October, 1909 - The Racconigi Bargain

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/racco.html

18 August, 1892 - The Franco-Russian Alliance Military Convention

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/franruss.html)

1907 - The Anglo-Russian Entente

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/anglruss.html)

1914 - The German White Book

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/germbook.html)

British Imperial Connexions to the Arab Nationalist Movement, Lord Kitchener and the Arab National Movement, 1912-1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/arabetuk.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

28 July, 1914: The Pledge Plan

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/pledplan.html)

29 July-1 August, 1914 - The "Willy-Nicky" Telegrams in the original English

(http://www.lib.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/willynilly.html)

July, 1914 Prince Lichownowsky's Reply to Sir Edward Grey

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/lichno.html)

Austro-Hungarian Empire

Look for the answers to these questions:

- What countries is the Austro-Hungarian Empire allied with?
- What problems does the Austro-Hungarian Empire face?
- How is nationalism affecting the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
- What are the Austro-Hungarian Empireís goals in the Balkans?
- What happened in Sarajevo to bring events to a crisis and what did the Austro-Hungarian
- Empire demand of Serbia?
- Would the Austro-Hungarian Empire go to war without the help of Germany?
- How does the Austro-Hungarian Empire force Serbia into a war?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, War Atlas Austria

(http://www.worldwar1.com/athng.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

20 May, 1882 The Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripally.html)

5 December, 1912 Expanded Version of the Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripall2.html)

September-October, 1908 The Annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/bosherz.html)

6 July, 1914 - The 'Blank Check'

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/blankche.html)

British Imperial Connexions to the Arab Nationalist Movement, Lord Kitchener and the Arab National Movement, 1912-1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/arabetuk.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

23 July, 1914: The Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum to Serbia

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/austro-hungarian-ultimatum.html)

25 July, 1914: The Serbian Response to the Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/serbresponse.html)

28 July, 1914: The Pledge Plan

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/pledplan.html)

July 1914, Prince Lichownowsky's Reply to Sir Edward Grey

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/lichno.html)

Serbia

Look for the answers to these questions:

- Who are Serbia's allies?
- Why does Serbia object to the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Austria?
- What are the goals of the Serbian nationalist organizations?

- What is Pan-Slavism and what are its goals?
- What is Serbia's response to the ultimatum sent by the Austro-Hungarian Empire?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-Serbia

(http://www.worldwar1.com/atserb.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

September-October, 1908 The Annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/bosherz.html)

1911 The Narodna Odbrana

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/odbrana.html)

The Constitution of the Black Hand, 1911

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/blk-cons.html)

British Imperial Connexions to the Arab Nationalist Movement, Lord Kitchener and the Arab National Movement, 1912-1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/arabetuk.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

23 July, 1914: The Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum to Serbia

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/austro-hungarian-ultimatum.html)

25 July, 1914 - The Serbian Response to the Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/serbresponse.html)

July 1914 - Prince Lichownowsky's Reply to Sir Edward Grey

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914/lichno.html)

Italy

Look for the answers to these questions:

- Who are Italy's allies?
- Under what conditions will Italy go to war to aid its allies? Is the Triple Alliance an offensive or defensive alliance?
- What territorial and colonial interests does Italy have in Europe, and Africa and how might their decision to declare war be affected by this?
- In what ways is your ally in the Triple Alliance, Austria, also your rival?

The documents below will help you:

20 May, 1882 The Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripally.html)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

1914 - The Austro-Italian Naval Race

(http://www.worldwar1.com/tlainr.htm)

October, 1909 - The Racconigi Bargain

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/racco.html)

5 December, 1912 Expanded Version of the Triple Alliance

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/tripall2.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

Ottoman Empire

Look for the answers to these questions:

What is Ottoman Empire's relationship with Bosnia and other countries in the Balkans?

What strategic strait does Turkey control and why is it strategic?

What relationship does Turkey have with Great Britain in the Middle East?

The documents below will help you:

Trenches on the Web, the War Atlas-The Ottoman Empire

(http://www.worldwar1.com/attur.htm)

General Friedrich von Bernardi, The Next War

(http://h-net2.msu.edu/~german/gtext/kaiserreich/bernhardi.html)

September-October, 1908 The Annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/bosherz.html)

British Imperial Connexions to the Arab Nationalist Movement, Lord Kitchener and the Arab National Movement, 1912-1914

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/arabetuk.html)

My Mission to London, 1912-14 by Prince Lichnowsky

(http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/lichnowy.html)

Learning Advice

Remember that the causes of war go beneath the surface of what countries publicly say and write. Often they have hidden agendas. Each country wants something, and they may use their alliance with another country as an excuse to pursue their real goals. Ask yourself, what is your countryís real goal(s)?

When you read the primary source documents, ask yourself these questions:

- Who wrote the document and does the author have a bias?
- For whom is it written and why?
- Did the author create it for a particular cause?
- Was it written by an eyewitness?
- Was the document translated and could the translation affect the meaning of the document?
- What kind of document is it and who was meant to see it?
- What was happening when this document was written?
- When you prepare your peace proposal, make sure that you offer something to your enemies. What are you willing to compromise and/or allow to change so that the other country can 'save face.' List your main points succinctly.

Evaluation

The class will develop a rubric based on the following criteria:

- scope, depth and accuracy of the information
- use of primary sources-quotes
- restatement of issues
- persuasiveness
- clarity of the oral presentation
- innovative peace proposals
- listening to others and using the information in your proposal
- ability to stay in character and express your country's point of view

Conclusion

Europe has often been described as a powder keg" in 1914 and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the "spark" which touched off the explosion. In your opinion, was World War I inevitable?

The Versailles Treaty (http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/versailles.html) held Germany responsible for the war, what do you think?

Reflection

Content:

- Find out how your country fared after the war (http://www.worldwar1.com/tlcrates.htm). Do you think that these countries would have been more amenable to compromise if they had known the consequences?
- How do you think this changed their attitudes in 1930's when Hitler began to violate the Versailles Treaty?
- What is the relationship between these events in 1914 and what is happening in the former Yugoslavia today (http://www.theatlantic.com/atlantic/atlweb/flashbks/balkans/balk.htm)?

Process:

- What part of the lesson you like best?
- What part did you like least?
- What would you change in this lesson?

Teacher Notes

Grade Level/Unit: Grade 10-World War I and Its Consequences

Lesson Purpose: To have students understand the many causes of World War I.

Goals

The students will:

- understand the long term causes of World War I.
- understand the short term causes of World War I.
- understand that often the stated reasons are not the only reasons for a country's actions.
- understand the history of the present day situation in the Balkans.

Standards:

Language Arts Grade 10: Listening and Speaking

http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/SCORE/stand/std.html#9LSS

Reading Comprehensive

http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/SCORE/stand/std.html#9RC

Draft H/SS Grade 10:

- 10 Students explain the origins and causes of the First World War, considering forces from all spheres of human activity (economic, social, cultural, political, philosophical, religious, scientific, technological), together with the motives and roles of individuals, with emphasis on
- the arguments presented by leaders on the eve of the Great War, using primary and secondary sources
- the role of nationalism, imperialism, militarism, political and economic rivalaries, and ethnic and ideological conflicts, and domestic discontent and disorder leading, to World War I
- ways in which popular faith in science, tecnology, and material progress affected attitudes toward the possiblity of war among European states
- roles played by propaganda and nationalism in mobilizing civilian populations in support of "total war"
- how different countries aligned themselves with either the Allied Powers or the Central Powers and the immediate causes for the entry of different nations

Information Literacy Skills

- Students will learn to the difference in analyze primary source documents.
- Students will recognize point of view as to what are essential facts.
- Students will organize information and present it.
- Students will take information and formulate a compromise.

Length of Lesson
Five 45-50 minute periods.

Interdisciplinary Connections: Students can also study World War I poetry. Look up "Lost Poets of the World War I" (http://www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/LostPoets/index.html). They can also read *All Quiet on the Western Front.*

Resources or materials needed

Marking pens and large sheets of paper are needed for the presentations. Students may also choose to make their presentations using a computer presentation program like PowerPoint or HyperStudio. They can copy maps, pictures, symbols and music from the web sites to enhance their presentations.

Background information that might be helpful

It would help students to understand the dynastic relationships between Britain, Germany, and Russia.

Lesson Sequence

1. Divide the class up into seven teams of at least four students per team. If you have extra students, make the Germany and/or Great Britain teams larger because there are more documents to read.

2. Assign each student one section: background information, short term causes, and long term causes. Put one student in charge of keeping the team on task and writing the peace proposal. Extra students should work on background information.

3. Allow at least two class periods for research and working on the presentations. If you are using a computer presentation program like PowerPoint, you may want to allow an extra period to use the computers.

4. Students should take notes in their journals for each country's presentation or the teacher may want to provide a special chart for note taking.

5. Provide adequate time (at least 45 minutes) for formulating the peace proposals from each country. Encourage students to prioritize their country's demands so that it will be easier for them to negotiate in the smaller groups.

6. Break up the class into at least four peace proposal groups. Have a representative from each country make their peace proposal presentation. If possible, make copies of the peace proposal for everyone in the group. Vote on the proposals and choose the one with the most votes (note that some countries have more than one vote) and negotiate on that proposal. Set a time limit of at least 45 minutes for the negotiations. If all the countries can agree on a peace proposal and still get some of their demands, they have reached a valid consensus. If not, each person in the group must write a declaration of war explaining which countries they are declaring war against and list their countryís grievances.

7. In conclusion, have students discuss the questions in the 'Conclusion' section and write on one or all of them.

Credits

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